

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

Volume 17 Issue 4

Published Quarterly by the Lamoine Town Office

April 2012

Petition Prompts RSU Withdrawal Vote

Vote is June 12, 2012

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have scheduled June 12, 2012 for a referendum vote on whether to start the process of withdrawing from Regional School Unit 24. A petition signed by 121 registered voters requested that the Board start that process, which will include promising \$15,000 to plan the withdrawal process and draw up an alternative organizational structure.

Between publication of this article and the vote, there will be several forums held to gather questions and provide accurate and unbiased information to the public regarding the potential withdrawal.

The Local School Advisory Committee and the Selectmen have asked for the public to send questions through the town office in an attempt to provide factual responses prior to the public hearing that will be held on **May 30, 2012** at 6:30 PM at the Lamoine Consolidated School. Numerous questions came in following an e-mail sent to subscribers to the town's e-mail service. Questions and comments can be sent via e-mail to:

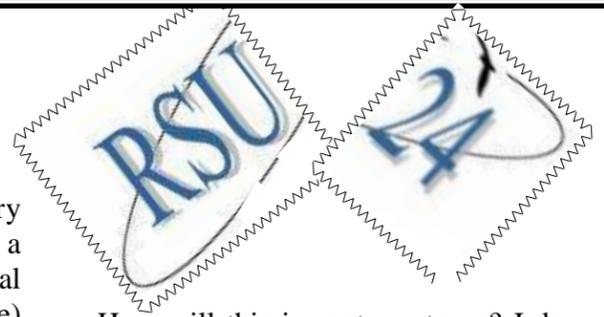
town@lamoine-me.gov.

The Local School Advisory Committee has been working with a similar group in Hancock on the potential AOS (Alternate Organizational Structure) should the towns opt to proceed to start the withdrawal process. Committee members helped circulate the petitions to bring the matter to an official vote on June 12th.

In the early going, many of the questions focused on the cost of education to taxpayers. The Selectmen wrote to the RSU 24 Superintendent's Office to try to gain an understanding of what it costs to run the elementary school in town, and what it would cost to send secondary students to the school of their choice if Lamoine were to pull out of the RSU. The response from the RSU office was a copy of the audit and several budget documents which did little to clear up the questions.

The questions and comments that arrived at the town office via e-mail included:

- Can it lead to improving the quality of the schooling the students receive



- How will this impact my taxes? I do not want to pay more in school taxes. Enough is enough.
- What is the actual expense of leaving the RSU including legal fees?
- What will the cost be to "purchase" the Lamoine Consolidated School back from RSU 24?

RSU 24 Representative Brett Jones will compile the questions and seek the correct answers. The Local School Advisory Committee will meet again at 6:30 PM on **Monday May 7, 2012** to gather questions from the public in advance of the public hearing. Committee members stress they are not advocating a position on the vote.

According to media reports, the City of Ellsworth is circulating a withdrawal petition, and the Town of Hancock will vote on the same day as Lamoine.

Fatal Shooting Spotlights Town

(Lamoine) - For several days in mid-March Lamoine became the setting of one of the top stories in the news cycle of media outlets in Maine, and beyond. A shooting at 4:30 AM on Sunday, March 11, 2012 fatally wounded one, critically wounded another and left two others with gunshot wounds that were not life-threatening. It also left an extremely curious community looking for answers.

The newspaper, radio and television coverage of the shooting at 749 Douglas Highway was intense. The story showed up in major news publications, including the *Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. The Associated Press picked up the story, sending it world wide. A TV news crew from at least one of the Portland stations arrived in town.

The Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit was called to investigate the case, which is considered a homicide.

The town's part in the incident was minimal. Animal Control Officer Mike Arsenault was contacted early on to search for a pair of dogs. The Selectmen issued a statement the following day expressing sympathy to the families of the victims, confidence in the State Police and asking for cooperation with the investigation. In an effort to provide accurate public information, the town's cable TV channel recorded a news conference held by Lt. Coleman the day following the shootings and aired the conference in its entirety.

While the shootings are contrary to the nature of our small town, the response to them from a public safety and

investigative standpoint was extraordinary. Lt. Coleman was reassuring that immediately following the shootings, the general public was not in any greater danger as all the players in the shooting had been identified and accounted for. He did say that people should always be cautious, and take basic protection measures such as locking their homes. Any suspicious activity should be reported to law enforcement agencies. The state



Crime scene tape isolates the property at 749 Douglas Highway while the Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit conducted the search of the property following the March 11, 2012 multiple shooting incident.

police or Hancock County Sheriff's Department will respond. The shootings show, "It can happen here".



Historic House Lost to Fire

The old Zerrien House, one of the more photographed in town, was lost to fire on March 19th. Details of the fire and the response are contained on page 2.

LVFD Photo

Major Fire Destroys Douglas Hwy. Home Seven Departments Respond to Mutual Aid Call

(Lamoine) - It took just six minutes for three fire trucks and four firefighters to arrive on scene at the Nicole Berzinis and Sean McLaughlin home. In that short time, the fire inside a bedroom had engulfed the middle section of the sprawling historic home, and it was clear there would be no way for firefighters to safely enter and knock down the blaze.

The automatic mutual aid system brought firefighters and equipment from Ellsworth, Hancock and Trenton to the scene. More calls for assistance went to Sullivan, Sorrento and Surry, and Douglas Highway was closed to allow tankers to shuttle water for nearly 8-hours.

An estimated 50 firefighters took turns manning hoses and training the water

on burning areas, trying to stop the flames, and by noon time, the fire had stopped progressing to the point that general contractor Jay Fowler and his excavator could knock down the chimneys and paw through the hot rubble to cool off the fire.

The fire destroyed nearly everything that the family, including two elementary school students, owned, but a new garage, and a couple of out buildings were saved. The Red Cross was called to help shelter the family and countless generous offers to help came pouring in immediately afterwards.

The State Fire Marshal's Office was called, but damage was too severe to determine a cause. Ms. Berzinis said it started in her bedroom.

Everyone Re-Elected

(Lamoine) - With no contested races, the annual municipal election was a rather dull affair. Just 79 ballots were cast, a 5.53% turnout, which is one of the lowest in recent memory. It took the ballot clerks just half an hour to tally up all the votes.

Re-elected were Selectmen Jo Cooper (67-votes) and Gary McFarland (68-votes); Assessor Michael Jordan (59-votes) and RSU 24 Representative Brett Jones (68 votes). Two names were written in for Selectman and Assessor and three for the RSU 24 Representative. Lamoine had 1,428 registered voters as of March 13, 2012.

That's What You Do in a Small Town

(Lamoine) - The phone started ringing incessantly at the Lamoine School and the Town Hall even as firefighters battled to put out the flames on Monday morning, March 19th. The question was the same, every time—"How can we help".

A benefit dinner and auction was held on the last day of March to help the McLaughlin-Berzinis family get back on their feet raised more than \$8,400. A fund was set up at Bangor Savings Bank for cash donations as well.

One Lamoine Beach Road resident who rents homes in the summer offered to let the family stay in one of the rentals for 3-months, an offer they gratefully accepted. A former Selectman offered free secure storage space if needed.

Sean McLaughlin seemed overwhelmed by the generosity. He said he grew up in a much larger community in Maine, and that would never have happened there. He is keeping a list of folks to thank, and wanted people to know how grateful the family is.



An excavator operated by Jay Fowler knocks down one of the two chimneys that remained standing before pulling apart the hot debris for extinguishment.

Town Meeting a Quick, Tame Affair

(Lamoine) - The annual town meeting on March 14th drew 78 voters, and they sped through business very efficiently. The turnout was one less than the number of ballots cast during voting for municipal officers the previous day.

Moderator Harvey Kelley once again led the voting on various articles. A few budget items were changed from the recommendations of the Budget Committee due to last minute information. Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith's request to add \$500 for respiratory testing to the public safety budget was hastily approved. New figures from RSU 24 that substantially lowered the amount needed for secondary education at non-RSU 24 schools were also adopted.

The article that usually generates the most discussion, one funding numerous agency requests, had virtually no debate as the requests and the recommendations were identical. There was a comment following the final article that some would like to see a change in how the request maximums are formulated. Selectmen answered that would have to be done through an ordinance change.

The overall municipal budget is down more than \$89,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, or roughly 13%. The main reason for the decrease is that fewer roads will be paved during the next fiscal year as the town adheres to a paving schedule developed several

years ago. The largest individual budget increase was Administration as Selectmen attempt to bring salaries of town staff to a competitive level compared to towns of similar size across the state.



Counting the Votes
Ballot clerks Kathleen DeFusco (left) and Marion McDevitt count the votes for municipal officers on March 13, 2012 under the watchful eye of Moderator Harvey Kelly. 79 Ballots were cast, counting took a half hour.

Diggers Look to Mussel Draggers for Cooperation

(Lamoine) - When a heavy device scrapes up the mussels from the bottom of Raccoon Cove, it also can ruin the habitat for baby clams and sand worms. The Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfishing Committee has developed a system to require permits before dragging can take place in the intertidal zone (that area that is exposed at low tide). Clam harvester Jim Norris, who lives on Raccoon Cove, has watched the draggers turn the mud over year after year with an ever diminishing harvest of mussels. Norris explained that under the plan, all the various resource harvesters should benefit. The mussels should return with a managed harvest schedule, seed clams will get a chance to burrow into the mud, and the sand worms would also be offered some protection from the drags. The Department of Marine Resources is expected to approve the program in the next few weeks.



Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfishing Committee Rep Jim Norris explains to the annual town meeting efforts to preserve the flats.

Voters Say OK to Ordinance Amendment Plans

(Lamoine) - The multi-town ordinance regulating shellfishing on Frenchman Bay has some growing pains – mostly political. To fix small problems is a big process, requiring six towns to bring amendments to the ordinance to town meeting, along with city council approval in Ellsworth.

Selectmen Richard Fennelly Jr. asked the annual town meeting if there would be any objection to amending the ordinance to allow the towns' Boards of Selectmen to approve minor changes, to allow towns to appoint non-elected representatives to the joint municipal board, and to allow the representative on the joint municipal board to be a commercial clam digger. There was no objection to any of the proposals.

When the ordinance might change to reflect that, though, is anyone's guess—all seven communities will have to approve the proposed changes first. No timetable has been set to present those changes to each town.

Town Board Appointees Named

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen accepted with regret the resignation of Conservation Commission member Annie Crisafulli, and appointed alternate David Legere to take her place on the Commission. Taking Legere's place as an alternate commissioner is Douglas Stewart.

Long time Board of Appeals member John Wuorinen has submitted his resignation which the Selectmen accepted with regret. Recently appointed alternate member Jon VanAmringe was appointed to take Wuorinen's slot on the Board of Appeals, with his term extended to 2014. It is anticipated the Selectmen will seek an alternate member to replace VanAmringe's slot.

People interested in serving on boards should contact the town office to be placed before the Selectmen for consideration.

Town Report Cover a Big Hit

(Lamoine) - The 2011 Annual Report cover featuring four women with their purses on the steps of the Lamoine Baptist Church taken sometime in the 1970's has been a

universal hit. From left to right, the grannies were Mary Anne Powell, Eunice Young, Audrey

Smith, and Ethel Berry. All have long since passed, but the all lived into their 90s.

Selectmen picked the picture, which was unique among the dozens submitted in a photo contest. Assessor Jane Fowler found the picture in her collection. Many of the other submissions were included throughout the report and on the power point show presented at the annual town meeting.



Carol Korty & John Holt look over the town report cover. Holt's grandmother is among the "grannies".

Planning Board Business Picks Up

(Lamoine) - While there is not a great deal of building activity going on, the Planning Board has nonetheless been fairly busy over the late winter and early spring.

In January, the Board approved the site plan review and commercial building permit applications submitted by Richard McMullen. The town's plowing contractor has asked to build a small salt/sand storage shed on his property on Partridge Cove Road to accommodate the salt and sand used on Route 184, which he is now plowing for the State of Maine.

The Planning Board also approved a Site Plan Review and Commercial Building change of use for the former office and garage of Richard King, Inc. Wayne Alley and Toni Carter plan to use the Douglas Highway facility for their vehicle repair business. Alley is currently set up on US Route 1 in Hancock. He will be renovating the building over the next year or so and hopes to open in 2013. A public hearing was held in February, and the Planning Board ordered some minor corrections to be placed on the final plan submitted by Alley, which were completed after the hearing and approval.

Another former King property was purchased by PCJ LLC (RF Jordan) and

the Planning Board determined that because of the transfer, the gravel extraction permit issued to King had expired. Jordan submitted the permit application to license the gravel operation in his name. The public hearing for the site plan review and gravel permit application was held and the permits approved April 3rd.

Also on the April agenda were pit relicensing matters for Jay Fowler and Perry Fowler for their pits in North Lamoine. The submissions come before the permits expire in May, and if the applications are found to be complete, a final review could be held at the May meeting of the Planning Board.

Also on the agenda was yet another property owned by the Estate of Mr. King—a subdivision that received approval several years ago. An attorney for his estate has noted that the lots are impossible to market at this time because one of the stipulations on the subdivision placed by Mr. King was that his company must build any homes to be placed there. Attorney Tony Beardsley is requesting that the Planning Board approve the plan, but without the covenants.

Town to State—Fix Route 184!

(Lamoine) - Every two years the Maine Department of Transportation asks municipalities to list priorities for state highway road repairs. For the last ten cycles sections of Route 184 have been placed on the list by Selectmen. Occasionally a light pavement overlay is applied, only to be broken apart by the next winter by the poor condition of the road base and heavy truck traffic passing over it.

The sections of Route 184 from Route 204 to Route 1 and from Latona Lane to Lamoine Beach are on the six year plan released in 2009 for some sort of maintenance. Whether that is actually carried out by 2015 is anyone's guess. The Selectmen have designated those two sections of road as a priority not only to resurface, but to reconstruct because of the lack of effectiveness of surface paving in the past. The submission headed to MDOT this month describes the roads as they've been described by the motoring public—a safety risk. The town office has fielded numerous calls from folks whose

cars have been shaken into a state of disrepair by the road that becomes extremely bumpy in the spring. Emergency responders say response time is significantly delayed because their vehicles cannot safely travel at the 45-MPH speed limit on the rough roads. The Selectmen also asked that the end of Lamoine Beach Road be configured to prevent cars from driving into the water. Temporary barricades were erected last fall following a fatal accident in Frenchman Bay.

Those two sections of road were not alone on the list. The Selectmen identified Pinkhams Flats, a section of Route 204, as badly in need of a repaving job. The road surface is rutted and falling apart in many locations.

The final priority listed is an endorsement of a traffic light to allow traffic to enter Route 3 from Route 204 in Trenton. While that project may be years away, it has generated some local discussion. A light is planned in Trenton this year at Route 230 and Route 3.

Picnic Table Replacement OK'd

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Parks Commission is expected to place an order for new picnic tables at Lamoine Beach in the coming days. Several of the current tables are in poor shape—the salt air has badly corroded the metal legs, and left sharp edges that present a safety issue.

The Parks Commission asked the Budget Committee to recommend expedited replacement from the current year budget from surplus funds. The annual town meeting approved the request of roughly \$2,400 without debate. If they arrive in time, the tables will be installed by the time park use picks up in late May.

Reported Recycling Rate Falls to 14%

(Lamoine) - The official state recycling rate reported by Lamoine fell this year to 14%, far below the state's 50% goal. At one time the town's reported rate was in the mid-30% range. While this might seem like a step backward, the town is actually recycling about the same amount of material as it has been in past years. The big difference now is that the figures are a lot more accurate.

Prior to this year, all the cardboard was carted out weekly, and the actual weight was estimated based on a state formula that was grossly inaccurate. The town also did not get paid for that cardboard. Now, the cardboard is shipped to Coastal Recycling where it is weighed and sold, and the town gets a fair amount of money for that sale, and a very accurate accounting of what was recycled.

It's hoped that education efforts will continue to improve the recycling numbers in future years.

Prepare Now for Fuel Savings

By Cathy Gaianguest

(Lamoine) - Paying for heating fuel this winter has been very difficult for many of us. However, members of the Lamoine Fuel Buyers' Group paid less because three local oil companies offered a group rate.

LFBG, a growing group of Lamoine citizens, arranges lower prices on Heating Oil and Propane for members' homes. For four years, the group has developed an agreement with local companies to offer Group members savings of \$.10/gallon and more below individual prices.

LFBG is now talking with fuel companies to arrange lower group prices for 2012-2013. It will also be offering workshops later in the year on inexpensive ways to conserve energy in our homes.

Any household in Lamoine can join. There are no obligations to the Group and no expenses. If you sign up, we list your name as a group member with the participating companies. Members continue to order their fuel individually from the participating companies, asking for the group rates.

If you wish to join, or would like more information, call or email Kathie G a i a n g u e s t at 6 6 7 - 1 2 8 2 , gaiangu@maine.edu.



Nora Hubbell finishes just steps ahead of her MDI Track Coach, Desiree Sirois at the 2012 Flattop 5K

Town Forecloses on Two Properties for Unpaid Taxes

(Lamoine) - Two property owners failed to pay their 2009/10 taxes in full by the statutory lien foreclosure deadline in early January, and the town automatically became the owner of both.

One property owner who lives in Minnesota thought an ex-spouse who lives at the residence would make the payments. She has since paid all back taxes, fees and interest in full and the Board of Selectmen issued a deed to the her. The brief period of town ownership did not affect the residency of the occupant.

The other property was a piece of vacant land off Berry Cove Road. Several years ago the town ordered that a dilapidated camp on that property be demolished, which was done. The property owners did not respond to several pieces of certified mail notifying them of the impending foreclosure, nor did they respond to the offer to purchase it back for back taxes, fees and interest.

The property was placed up for public bid, and in mid-March, six bids were received for the roughly half acre lot. The minimum bid was \$1,600. The winning bid was received from Frank and Wendy Young for \$6,313.00. A deed will be issued in April to the Youngs upon receipt of payment. Mr. Young's family has owned the abutting property for several decades.

Record Field for Flat Top 5K Race

(Lamoine) - Nearly perfect running conditions attracted more than 300 runners to Lamoine for the first road race of the 2012 season—the 7th annual Flat Top 5K race. That shattered all attendance records for the race, and created a challenge for organizers to place all the entrants into a tracking computer for accurate results.

The winner of the 5K adult division was Bangor's Adam Goode, finishing the course in 15:35, just 4-seconds ahead of Bar Harbor's Judson Cake. Both runners are previous winners of the event.

Finishing first among the female runners was Brewer's Kristine Guaraldo with a time of 19:39. Nora Hubbell and Desiree Sirois finished 2nd and 3rd.

The one mile fun run saw Lamoine's Sam Tehennepe finish first with a time of 6:27. Sam is 12-years old. He was followed by 11-year old Kiona Osterlin of Ellsworth who was 11-seconds off the pace and the first female finisher.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the Sumner High Track program and the Berzinis/McLaughlin family that lost their home to fire in March. The Parks Commission thanks the many race sponsors.

State Inspection Leads to Repairs, Small Fine



Deputy Code Enforcement Officer Mike Jordan installs a railing on the seldom used stairs leading to the cellar of the town hall.

transfer station were ordered to make repairs and conduct required training by mid-May.

Among the changes needed at the town hall were moving things around to make sure electrical panels and fire extinguishers were accessible, and eliminating the use of extension cords on a couple of appliances that were rarely used. Also required was installation of a hand rail leading to the cellar. All the action items for the town hall were quickly completed.

At the transfer station, the corrections were even fewer and faster to complete. An artificial Christmas tree with lights that ran on a small extension cord was removed, and the fire extinguisher which had been locked in the attendants office the last time the extinguisher maintenance company was in town was inspected, bringing it into compliance.

The fire station had the most citations, and the only one that came with a fine. Three firefighters had not completed their annual required hazardous materials training in the past year, and that carried a \$700. The department was also ordered to install a hand rail to the loft, complete other mandated training, and install special circuit breaker protection on cords that could come in contact with water. The required training should be done in mid-April, and the rest of the repairs are nearly complete.

(Lamoine) - Maine's Bureau of Labor Standards is charged with making sure that public agencies are in compliance with the voluminous federal labor and safety laws. Inspectors show up, unannounced, every so often and inspect facilities and paperwork. Such was the case in late January when the inspector showed up shortly before lunch at the town office.

Town personnel had to be assigned to accompany the inspector to the various facilities, throwing any plan for the work-day out the window. When all the inspections were completed a few days later the town hall, fire station, and

Fire Station Boiler Needs Replacement

(Lamoine) - A few failures by the boiler at the fire station has resulted in a recommendation by the fire department that the 21-year old boiler be replaced. An energy audit was done of the fire station, and though Efficiency Maine is promoting propane powered furnaces, the payback for installation of one was not expected to result in any cost savings. Fire Chief Skip Smith is developing a request for bids to install a new, oil fired boiler made of cast iron instead of steel. A special town meeting is expected at some point to fund the installation once a price is known.

Ambulance Contract Renewed

(Lamoine) - An offer from County Ambulance to renew the long-standing contract for another three years at the same per-capita rate was swiftly approved by Selectmen. Thanks to a lower than expected population in 2010, the rate and population actually resulted in a lower appropriation for public safety. The town does not run its own ambulance or first responder service, as County is based in nearby Ellsworth. The contract is similar to many other small towns around Ellsworth and helps maintain staffing levels to ensure swift response for emergency calls.

Fire Calls Few, But Potent

(Lamoine) - Usually the winter months bring a lot of calls for help to the Lamoine Fire Department. Not so for 2012 as the department had a stretch from early December to late January without any alarms. That changed on January 30th when pagers brought firefighters from three communities to Misty Way where a storage room was on fire. The homeowner, Steve Rauch, had knocked the flames down initially with a pair of fire extinguishers and evacuated the house. Firefighters quickly hit the flames with water and got things cooled down to the point damage was stopped quickly. An electrical problem was blamed for the blaze. No injuries were reported.

On February 12th firefighters, an ambulance, the Sheriff's Department and the Life



The Life Flight helicopter awaits a patient involved in a rollover accident on Pinkhams Flats in mid-February.

Flight Helicopter responded to Pinkhams Flats when a Hancock woman was reported partially trapped in a rolled over pickup truck. She was flown to Eastern Maine Medical Center and her injuries were not as severe as first feared and she was treated and released.

A stubborn chimney fire on Lamoine Beach Road on March 10th brought three fire trucks to the scene down the very bumpy road on a Saturday afternoon. A clogged chimney was found, and dry chemical was able to put the fire out. Firefighters removed the flaming logs from a wood stove and extinguished them outside. There was relatively minor smoke damage, but the occupants were advised to have a professional clean and check the chimney.

Knox Box Installed

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Town Office is the first building in town to have a Knox Box. The secure box holds keys to the office and is accessibly only by the fire department so they can make emergency entry in case of a call when the office is locked. Commercial businesses or homes are encouraged to install the boxes for emergency access. Info is available from the Fire Department of Town Office.



Some scorched insulation and wood damage inside a storage room remained after firefighters extinguished a blaze on Misty Way in late January.

Military Excise Exemption Proposed, Fireworks Ban Rejected, for now

(Lamoine) - Lamoine voters may decide whether to enact an ordinance that would exempt active duty military personnel from paying excise tax on motor vehicle registrations. The Maine Legislature passed a law to allow municipalities to decide whether they want to grant such an exemption. Selectmen discussed the issue a couple of months ago, but after the annual town meeting warrant had been signed and posted.

The potential exemption is not expected to apply to more than one or two people currently on active duty overseas. A draft ordinance has been crafted, and the issue will be on the next available special open town meeting.

The Board of Selectmen also discussed a possible ordinance to regulate fireworks that have been legalized by the Legislature. That legislation allows for local communities to ban sales and possession of fireworks. Because there is no local police agency to enforce that local ordinance, it was decided to hold off, however the Parks Commission has been asked to discuss the situation, especially given the popularity of Lamoine Beach at the 4th of July.

Not A Lot Of Building

(Lamoine) - The first quarter of the year is typically slow in regard to building permits. Code Enforcement Officers Dennis Ford and Michael Jordan issued the following permits:

#	Name	Project
1	McMullen, Richard	Salt Shed
2	Cahn, Frederick	Greenhouse
3	Duquette, Michael	Residence
4	McAndrew, Joseph	Garage



Lamoine's vault stores a lot more than the town's permanent records, and space has become a critical matter.

Dog Licenses Overdue, Late Fee Required

(Lamoine) - Folks who did not get their dogs registered by the end of January face a \$25.00 late fee when obtaining their 2012 dog registration. That fee is mandated by state law.

A check of the dog registration files near the end of March revealed that nearly 60-dogs remained un-registered for 2012. The town clerk will be sending a reminder to those who remain in the file, and several rabies clinics are scheduled in April to accommodate dogs that require their shots.

Those who fail to register their dogs may receive a visit from the Animal Control Officer with a friendly reminder and a deadline for registration. Failure to comply with that request could result in another visit from the ACO, only this time with a summons for failure to register. Folks who no longer have their dog should contact the town office so the animal can be removed from the files.

Vault Storage Improvement Planned

(Lamoine) - The walk-in vault at the Lamoine Town Hall is the envy of many small towns. However, space has become an issue, and the town office staff is beginning to plan for significant changes in how vital information is stored.

Under state law, towns are required to store vital records, tax records, and many other documents securely and permanently. Other records are destroyed according to a schedule laid out under those same statutes. Until that destruction date, though, secure storage is required.

The annual town meeting approved spending up to \$8,000 to better accomplish records storage and preservation. Money for this will come from the annual interest payment from a fund left to the town by former treasurer Leurene Hodgkins. That fund was to be used for capital projects or parks, and was used to construct the privy at Bloomfield Park in 2011.

Some of the project will likely include new storage cabinets for odd sized books, and another part of the project will be to bind the many years of tax records so that they conform to state requirements. A less costly part of the project will be to determine which records can be discarded and start a major cleaning project. Besides storage, the Board of Assessors uses the vault for its day to day work materials.



Oh, Give Me A Home.....
Two domestic sheep got loose from their farm off Seal Point Road and were corralled by Animal Control Officer Mike Arsenault. They were returned without incident
Gregory Spring photo

Town Continues Exploration of Cable Extensions

(Lamoine) - Selectmen listened to the plight of two residents of Coley Cove Lane at their meeting on March 15th. They live about a half mile beyond the end of the Time Warner Cable line, they are not within receiving range of wireless internet, and satellite coverage is spotty at best. What's more, they perform mortgage closing services where documents are sent via e-mail, and dial-up just isn't cutting it. Their plea, as has been the plea from many others—see what can be done to have Time Warner extend service further down the road.

Prior to that a representative from the cable company came to the office with a similar request. He suggested asking for a change in the cable franchise agreement to remove the satellite dish exemption when counting homes to meet the density requirement.

The town is also exploring a public/private partnership with Time Warner and property owners to contribute toward a build-out installation. A Time Warner representative says they are able to offer some grant money toward that build out. Selectmen are exploring using some of the franchise fees that have been building up in a dedicated fund to help with build out. The property owners would have to contribute toward the build-out as well. The matter will be discussed in the coming months.

Tax Collection Complete

(Lamoine) - Payment of the last of the personal property taxes assessed in July 2010 was accomplished in the fall of 2011, and that means tax collector Jennifer Kovacs was able to close out her books in what's termed a settlement with the Selectmen.

Those real estate taxes that were not paid were placed into lien, and are now due to be paid to the town treasurer. Only the taxes committed in July 2011 remain unsettled. Lien notices will go out in May.

A Never Ending Task—Litter Cleanup

By Georgia Munsell
(Lamoine) - Lamoine is very fortunate to have 76 "do-gooders" who have adopted 27 sections of Lamoine town roads. At least two times a year in the spring and fall, these Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, wearing orange safety vests, get out and pick up litter along our roads. Please do slow down when you see them.



Thank you litter lifters for helping keep the roads in Lamoine trash free. We really appreciate your volunteer efforts

Eighth Grader Trisha Smith of Fennellyville Road is one of the many volunteers. Her territory is a busy spot of Jordan River and Buttermilk Rd.

Stocking Named Citizen of Year and Conservation Award Winner

(Lamoine) - When it comes to serving his community, few people do it with the enthusiasm and congeniality of Fred Stocking. And even though his term on the Conservation Commission (which he was key in founding) expired and he asked not to be reappointed, Stocking has continued to play a vital role in the Commission's mission. He is coordinating the open space inventory which is required by the Commission's enabling ordinance.



Fred Stocking receives the citizen of the year certificate and plaque from Selectboard Chair Jo Cooper just prior to the 2012 Town Meeting

A lawyer by trade, Fred has used his legal skills while serving on both the Planning and Appeals Board prior to his service on the Conservation Commission. He has chaired all three boards from time to time. It was the recognition of that service that led both the Board of Selectmen and the current Conservation Commission to honor Stocking at the annual town meeting with the Citizen of the Year award and the Conservation Award.

Boynton's Honored

(Lamoine) - The Selectmen recognized Harold "Bubby" and Nancy Boynton on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary in February. The couple, who pick up roadside litter nearly every day, was married in Lamoine on February 23, 1962. A certificate signed by the Board and the town clerk was delivered to them.



The 2001 champs. That's Coach Tupper

also were named the sportsmanship award winners. The Selectmen signed certificates honoring all three teams.

Winter Sports Teams Do Lamoine Proud

(Lamoine) - When you look back at the Lamoine Quarterly of April 2001 (below), you might recognize this year's coach—she was one of the first squad of cheerleaders to win a title in the Jr. High competition in Bangor. Twelve years later, coach Kimberly Tupper and her four cheerleaders have brought home a trophy—make that 12 in a row now, as winners of their division.

The Lamoine boys and girls basketball teams were no slouches either. The girl's team won the RSU 24 small school championship in February, while the boys finished as the runners up to Hancock. In addition to the win, the girls

Lamoine Community Arts Marks 5th Year

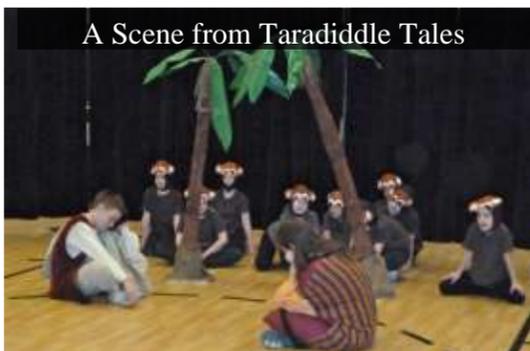
By Diane Sanderson

(Lamoine) Lamoine Community Arts (LCA) moves into its 5th year with many activities. We've had enjoyable Saturday evenings this winter reading plays in members' homes, an entertaining way to look for possible plays for the fall production. And since February a group of us has had a great time working at the school with the children to perform *Taradiddle Tales* and *Taradiddle Travels* by Flora Atkins at the end of March. The children traveled from Puerto Rico to Africa, from India to Japan with stops in between. They were costumed, excited, and worked hard on memorizing lines, making costumes and props, singing chants and making music. Grades 2 through 7 were involved as actors and musicians; Grade 8 as video and production crews.

In April LCA is taking two of last season's plays to the annual festival of MeACT (Maine Association of Community Theaters). The venue is the Lucid Theater in Portland where we will be performing with six other community acting groups from around Maine. Call us if you want to join the caravan to Portland on April 21st.

This year we are trying a new setting at the Lamoine School gym for our annual May Reader's Theater. There will be two evening performances on Friday and Saturday, May 18th and 19th, at 7:00 PM. We will be reading *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* by Jane Wagner, a very funny play about a serious issue. We are eager to use the black velour drapes that were purchased from the Jina Gym Fund. Refreshments will be available.

Lots of activity in LCA. Come join us. For information call Diane Sanderson at 667-7969 or Carol Korty at 667-4441.



A Scene from Taradiddle Tales

Vital Records

(Lamoine) - The only death reported this quarter was that of former Planning Board member and Deputy Plumbing Inspector **Robert Sharkey** who passed away on January 2nd in Ellsworth.

Just one marriage to report—**Megan Page and Michael Cunningham** obtained their marriage license on February 29th.

There were 3 babies born during the quarter who reside in Lamoine. Two are girls, and one is a boy.

April 2012-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2-6:30 PM Local School Adv. Cmte	3-7PM Planning Board	4-7PM Assessors	5-7PM Selectmen	6	7-Office open 8-Noon
8	9	10	11-7PM Conservation Commission	12	13	14
15-Fire Dept. Training Day	16-Office Closed, State Holiday	17-7PM Parks Commission	18-7PM Shellfish Conservation	19-7PM Selectmen	20	21
22	23	24	25	26-Office closed @ Lunch (training)	27	28-Office open 8-12
29	30	The Lamoine Historical Society is currently putting together a calendar for 2013 featuring before and after pictures of Lamoine homes - 1930s versus 2012. The Society is accepting business card size ads from Lamoine businesses and Lamoine residents, who have businesses elsewhere. The deadline is April 30 to be included. The calendar will be available for sale the first week of June. Any one interested in placing an ad should call Doug Stewart @ 667-5607 or Edna Coyne @ 667-9276.				

May 2012-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-7PM Planning Board	2-7PM Assessors	3-7PM Selectmen	4	5-Office Open 8-12
6	7-6:30 PM Local School Adv. Cmte.	8	9-7PM Conservation Commission	10	11	12
13	14	15-7PM Parks Commission	16-7PM Shellfish Conservation	17-7PM Selectmen	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28-Office Closed, Memorial Day	29	30-6:30 RSU 24 Withdrawal Vote Public Hearing	31	<i>The Lamoine Fire Department meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 at the fire station.</i>	

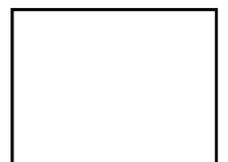
June 2012-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
College Students are encouraged to apply for the Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Scholarship. A link to the application files is located on the town's website: www.lamoine-me.gov Deadline is June 1, 2012.					1-Hodgkins Scholarship Deadline	2-Office open 8-12
3	4-6:30 PM Local School Adv. Cmte.	5-7PM Planning Board	6-7PM Assessors	7-7PM Selectmen	8	9
10	11	12-Primary, RSU Election 8am-8pm	13-7PM Conservation Commission	14	15	16
17	18	19-7PM Parks Commission	20-7PM Shellfish Conservation	21-7PM Selectmen	22	23
24	25	26-10AM MDI League of Towns	27	28	29	30-Office open 8-12

The Lamoine Quarterly
April 2012

Inside this issue:
 1 RSU Withdrawal Vote Set
 1 Shooting Investigated
 2 Major Fire Destroys House
 2 Annual Town Meeting
 3 Drag Regulation Sought
 4 DOT Asked to Fix Road
 5 Fire & Accident Calls
 6 Cable Extension Eyed
 7 Stocking Honored Twice
 7 More Champions

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
 606 Douglas Highway
 Lamoine, ME 04605